

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Ronal W. Serpas**



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## **Collisions Down / Fatalities Up During Labor Day Weekend**

Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that the number of collisions during the Labor Day weekend were down 8%. From midnight on August 29<sup>th</sup> to midnight on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 376 collisions were investigated by the State Patrol, compared to 412 in 2002. Out of the 376 collisions, 3 were fatalities—up from 2 in 2002.

Chief Serpas explained, "The men and women of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) are committed to the core mission of the Patrol. Even though we experienced fewer collisions this Labor Day weekend, we still investigated 3 fatality collisions which resulted in 4 people losing their lives. Tragedies like this remind all of us how much work we still have to do."

The WSP continues to strive to make the motoring public's travel as safe and uneventful as possible. Below are the statistics from this year's Labor Day weekend compared to the same time frame in 2002:

	<u><b>Labor Day 2003</b></u>	<u><b>Labor Day 2002</b></u>
Traffic Stops	19,992	13,212
DUI Arrests	392	333
Speeding Tickets	4,366	4,027
Seat Belt Tickets	852	841
Drug-Related Arrests	125	92
Motorist Assists	2,308	1,829
Collisions	376	412

The WSP is committed to making a difference and saving lives. With the holiday season approaching, our emphasis patrols will be searching out the drinking driver, the aggressive driver, those who travel at dangerous speeds, and people not wearing seat belts.

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